

Introduced by Senator Murray

February 20, 2004

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 17—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by adding Section 12 to Article IX thereof, relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCA 17, as introduced, Murray. University of California: student eligibility.

Existing law declares that it is the policy of the Legislature that all resident applicants to California institutions of public higher education who are determined to be qualified by law or by admission standards established by the respective governing boards should be admitted to either (1) a district of the California Community Colleges, (2) the California State University, or (3) the University of California.

The California Constitution establishes the University of California as a public trust administered by the Regents of the University of California. Existing law authorizes the university to provide undergraduate and graduate instruction in the liberal arts and sciences and in the professions, including the teaching professions. Under existing law, the university has exclusive jurisdiction in public higher education over instruction in the profession of law, over graduate instruction in the professions of medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine, and is the primary state-supported academic agency for research.

This measure would, commencing January 1, 2005, provide that, from those students who are deemed by the regents to be eligible for admission to the University of California, any student who ranks in the

upper 10% of his or her graduating class at a public school in California, based on measures of performance, including, but not necessarily limited to, grade point average, determined by the regents to be educationally sound, is entitled to admission. The measure would provide that the remainder of students who are deemed by the regents to be eligible for admission to the university shall compete, on a statewide basis, for available opportunities for admission.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

1 *Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring,* That the
2 Legislature of the State of California at its 2003–04 Regular
3 Session commencing on the second day of December 2002,
4 two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring, hereby
5 proposes to the people of the State of California that the
6 Constitution of the State be amended as follows:

7 First—That Section 12 is added to Article IX thereof, to read:

8 SEC. 12. From those students who are deemed by the Regents
9 to be eligible for admission to the University of California, any
10 student who ranks in the upper 10 percent of his or her graduating
11 class at a public school in California, based on measures of
12 performance, including, but not necessarily limited to, grade point
13 average, determined by the Regents to be educationally sound,
14 shall be entitled to admission to the University of California. The
15 remainder of the students who are deemed by the Regents to be
16 eligible for admission to the university shall compete, on a
17 statewide basis, for available opportunities for admission to the
18 University of California.

19 Second—That the amendments to the California Constitution
20 made by this measure shall become operative on January 1, 2005.

